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ABSTRACT

This resource packet for social studies instruction for grades 4-6 is intended to enhance the teaching of current events through the use of newspapers. Teacher instructions and pupil pages include activities on the following: (1) Current Events; (2) All About Newspapers; (3) What's in the News?; (4) Test Your Nose for News; (5) Be a Cub Reporter 1 and 2; and (6) Current Events Report. (EH)

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SUBJECT: Social Studies

Current Events

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADE LEVEL:

Four, Five, Six

WORKING WITH NEWSPAPERS: A SKILLS KIT©

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

To help pupils:

- Become aware of local, national and international events through newspapers
- Understand the format of a newspaper
- Analyze the various types of news
- Understand how world events affect people personally
- Sharpen and organize thinking skills
- Recognize pertinent facts in order to support a main idea
- Utilize reading and writing skills

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION

A. DISCUSSION

Teacher-Directed

Elicit from pupils:

1. The meaning of the term "Current Events" (something that is happening now)
2. The ways of finding out what is going on in the news (radio, television, newspapers)
3. The difference between local, national and international news

   LOCAL: what is going on in a neighborhood or city

   NATIONAL: news about our country

   INTERNATIONAL: news about other countries

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SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION

(CONTINUED)

"All About Newspapers"

B. PUPIL PAGE

Independent Work: *"All About Newspapers"*

Based on previous class discussions, pupils do this page on their own, as classwork or homework. Review answers with class and discuss.

"What's in the News?"

C. PUPIL PAGE

Teacher-Directed: Independent Work: *"What's in the News?"*

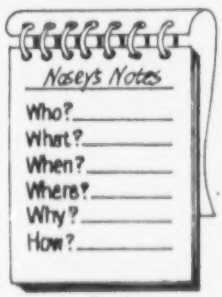
1. Before using this sheet, ask each child to bring in the same issue of one particular newspaper. Have individual students read "Super Steps." Discuss each step with the class. Discuss format of the newspaper: Sections: sports, editorial, entertainment, etc. Analyze articles. Check to make sure that pupils understand Super Steps 3, 4 and 5. Discuss the difference between fact and opinion.
2. Each student selects a different article of his/her own choice. After reading it, he/she does Super Step 3. Assign partners, so that papers can be exchanged. Partners read each other's articles to see whether work has been done correctly.
3. Hold class discussions to resolve conflicting answers.

"Test Your Nose for News"

D. PUPIL PAGE

Independent Work: *"Test Your Nose for News"*

Pupils can do this page independently in class or as a homework assignment. Reinforces the 5 Super Steps.



"Be A Cub Reporter I & II"

E. PUPIL PAGE

Independent Work: *"Be A Cub Reporter I & II"*

Pupils can do these pages independently in class or as a homework assignment. Give pupils practice in writing a news story from a written outline.

"Current Events Report"

F. PUPIL PAGE

Independent Work: *"Current Events Report"*

Pupils should be given a new Current Events Report sheet, whenever they are assigned Current Events.

1. Each time a report is assigned, students will choose a newspaper article based on one of the categories listed here and will determine whether the news is: local, national or international. **Category:** a) political event b) famous person c) human interest d) sports.
2. Once an article is chosen for a report, it should be cut out and pasted on the reverse side of the "Current Events Report" sheet. Students should be encouraged to read an article several times, before attempting to prepare a report. Pupils should follow the directions on the "Current Events Report" sheet.

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NAME _____ DATE _____

CLASS _____ TEACHER _____

ALL ABOUT NEWSPAPERS

DIRECTIONS: Write each answer on lines a. b. and c.

1. What are three ways we can find out about events that are taking place in the world? Write one answer on each line below.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

2. DIRECTIONS: On the lines after each sentence below, write either local, national or international.

a. The mayor in Peter's town announced that a new park and playground would be built in the center of town.

_____

b. Highway 85 runs across the country.

_____

c. Mary read in the newspaper that a foreign country she wanted to visit required a passport.

_____

DIRECTIONS:

3. Newspapers are divided into sections. Examine a newspaper and make a list of five sections. Write the name of each and briefly explain its purpose.

SECTION ONE — NAME: _____ PURPOSE: _____

SECTION TWO — NAME: _____ PURPOSE: _____

SECTION THREE — NAME: _____ PURPOSE: _____

SECTION FOUR — NAME: _____ PURPOSE: _____

SECTION FIVE — NAME: _____ PURPOSE: _____

4. DIRECTIONS: If you were a newspaper reporter, which section would you like to write for? State the section and your reasons on the lines below.

Section: _____ Why? _____

_____

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NAME	DATE
CLASS	TEACHER

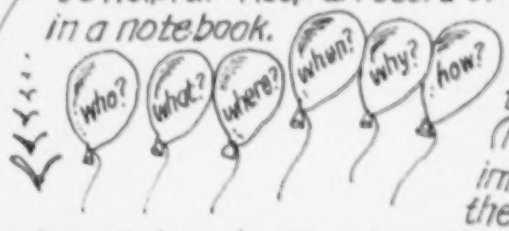
WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Hi! I'm Nosey, the Super Reporter for the Daily Blah. I find out what's going on in the world and let folks know about it through my news stories. People read them in the newspaper and learn about current events.

The Chief asked me to give you the info on how to write a news report. Just follow my Super Steps to become a Super Reporter, too.

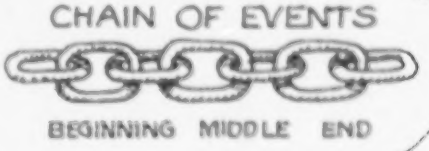
Super Step 1: Choose a subject to write about. You need a nose for news on all kinds of subjects: sports, famous people, entertainment, government, foreign countries, even the weather.

Super Step 2: Do research. That means looking for information in books and magazines, and talking to people who could be helpful. Keep a record of all the information you gather in a notebook.

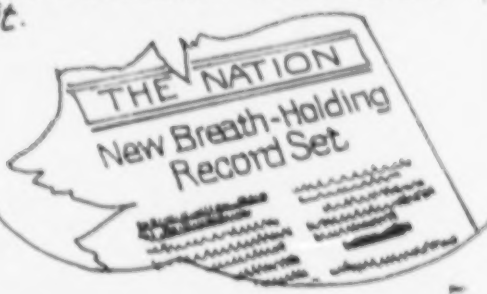


Super Step 3: Report only the facts or details of the story. (No opinions, please!) These should include information that will answer the questions: **who?** (is the story about), **what?** (is the story about), **where?** (did the story take place) and **when?** (did the event happen). Some news stories also answer the questions **why?** (an event took place or someone did something) and **how?** (did something happen or someone do something).

Super Step 4: Arrange the details of your story in the order they happened or your story will be confusing to the reader.



Super Step 5: Give your story a title or headline. A headline states the main idea [most important details] of a news story in a few words. Its job is to give people an idea of what the story is about before they read it.



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NAME DATE

CLASS TEACHER

TEST YOUR NOSE FOR NEWS

Read the following news story.

SCIENCE SECTION — Daily Blah — PAGE 3

Girl Invents Homework Machine

Alice Chang, who lives in Spring City, surprised everyone when she announced yesterday that as of March 5, the public will be able to purchase her newly developed Homework Machine.

At fifteen, Alice is already an accomplished inventor. Last year, she developed battery-operated, heated earmuffs and Forever Flavored, a chewing gum that never loses its taste. Alice began inventing at the age of 9, when she introduced the At-Your Service Robot. Unfortunately, Alice still has to iron out a few problems. The robot can't quite make Alice's lunch or clean up her room, as it had been programmed to do.

There is another Alice Chang invention to look forward to: Alice is working on heated mittens.

She told us that her method of inventing is just to let her imagination go wild.

When we asked Alice if she was excited about making money from her inventions, she said, "No, what's exciting is the fun I get out of it."

In the story:
"Girl Invents Homework Machine":

a. Underline the word(s) in RED that answers the question "WHO?"
b. Underline the word(s) in BLUE that answers the question "WHAT?"
c. Underline the word(s) in YELLOW that answers the question "WHEN?"
d. Underline the word(s) in GREEN that answers the question "WHERE?"
e. Underline the word(s) in ORANGE that answers the question "WHY?"
f. Underline the word(s) in PURPLE that answers the question "HOW?"

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NAME DATE

CLASS TEACHER

BE A CUB REPORTER I

Hi! I'm Nosey, Super Reporter, on Special Assignment. I have to go out of town and won't be able to write the story I've outlined below. Please do it for me. Use the headline and my notes as guides.

NOSEY'S NOTES

Special Assignments Reporter / The Daily Blah

WHO?	Genie: A parakeet
WHAT?	On the day Billy was to appear on a radio game show, he suddenly lost his voice. When the emcee asked him the deciding question for his team, his parakeet answered the question correctly.
WHEN?	Tuesday, May 10th
WHERE?	Radio Station WGTR
WHY?	Billy brought Genie to the radio station because he was going to his friend's house for the weekend and didn't want to leave Genie alone.
HOW?	Billy always talked to Genie, as he studied & did his homework. They listened to the game show together. She was used to answering the question just as Billy did.

Dear Cub Reporter:

1. Write the first draft of "Talking Parakeet Makes Perfect Pupil" in your notebook or on a separate piece of paper.
2. Put the important facts in the order they happened.
3. When you have finished writing the story, check it for spelling, punctuation and paragraphs.

Thanks for your help.

Nosey

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NAME _____ DATE _____

CLASS _____ TEACHER _____

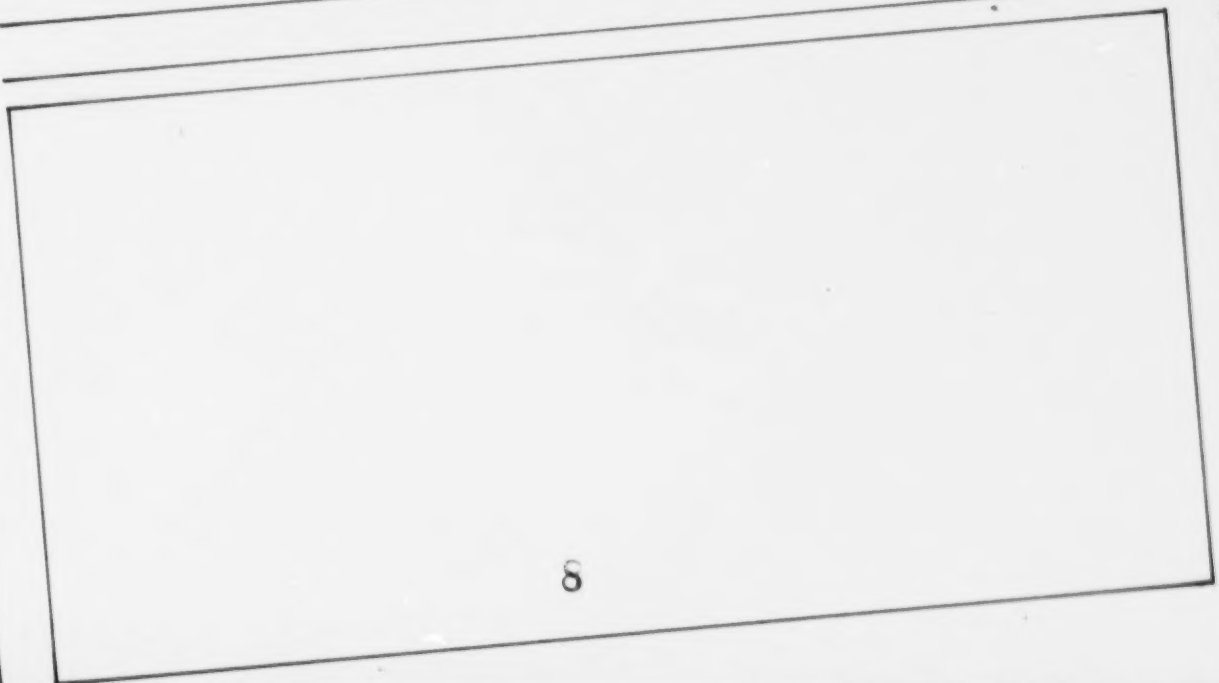
BE A CUB REPORTER II

Write your corrected story on the Daily Blah's News Page.
Then, illustrate it in the box below.

NEWS SECTION — Daily Blah — PAGE 1

Talking Parakeet Makes Perfect Pupil

by _____



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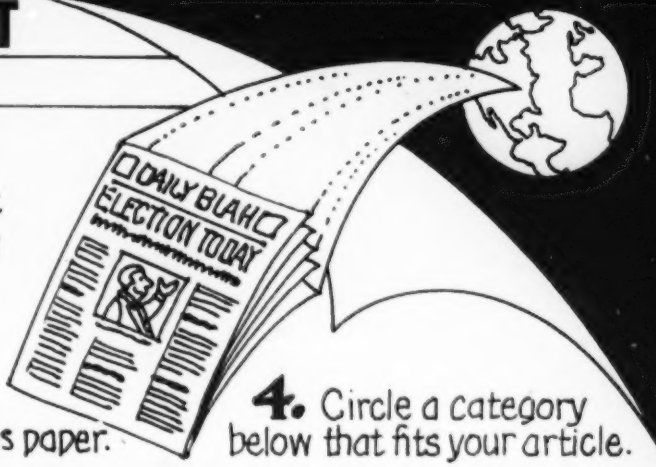
NAME _____ DATE _____

CLASS _____ TEACHER _____

CURRENT EVENTS REPORT

DIRECTIONS



Read numbers 1 through 5.

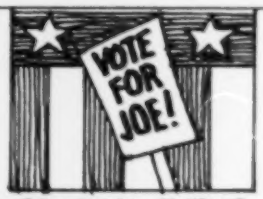
1. Read a newspaper article that is not more than one week old. NOTE: A photograph or cartoon with a caption is not an article.

2. Cut out the article. Include any part that may be continued on another page.

3. Paste the entire article on the back of this paper.

4. Circle a category below that fits your article.

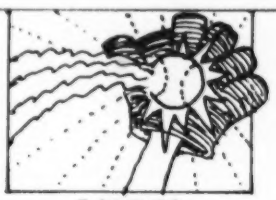
CATEGORIES



POLITICAL EVENT

FAMOUS PERSON

HUMAN INTEREST



SPORTS

5. On your paper, write the Type of News your article is: 1. Local. 2. National. 3. International.

NEW VOCABULARY

6. Find three new words from the article. Write each one on the Current Events Report sheet with its dictionary meaning.

Name of Newspaper: _____ Date: _____

News Category _____

Type of News _____

VOCABULARY:

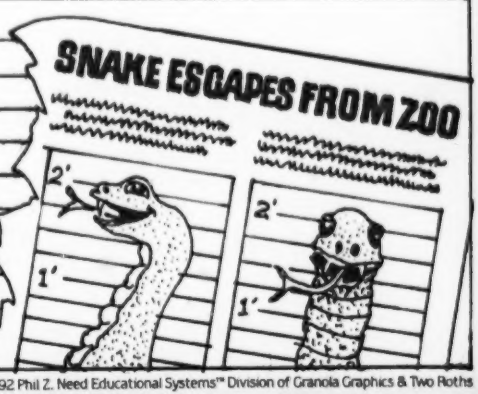
- Word: _____
  Definition: _____
- Word: _____
  Definition: _____
- Word: _____
  Definition: _____

WHAT is the article about? _____

WHO is the article about? _____

WHERE did the event take place? _____

WHEN did the event happen? _____



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